

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant's attorney during the interview held September 12, 2003, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicant's attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and why it is patentable over the applied prior art, and discussed other issues raised in the Office Action. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The rejection of Claims 13-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. 5,256,710 (Krivohlavek) or U.S. 3,963,659 (Binder et al) is respectfully traversed. As noted by the Examiner during the above-referenced interview, neither Krivohlavek nor Binder et al disclose or suggest the crosslink co-agent of Claim 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

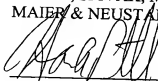
The rejection of Claims 4, 5, 10, 16, 17, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

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All of the presently pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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